

**Testimony of Sharon Vallone, DC
before the Public Health Committee
HB 6977
February 14, 2007**

Members of the Committee:

Today, it is with respect and appreciation that I present another opinion concerning the proposed HB 6977.

I am hopeful that you will responsibly consider all the information presented and choose a course of action in the best interest of the young women who stand to suffer if we do not carefully consider the evidence. Scare tactics concerning cervical cancer and pharmaceutical dollars should not be why legislation is drafted that insures the mandatory mass inoculation of young girls with an inoculant that has not yet been proven safe and efficacious in this population of women.

Based on the current available research, I may be opposed to the mandated administration of the HPV vaccine to this or any population of women, but I offer this information for your review and ask your consideration, most importantly, of the parental right to be fully informed about the benefit risk ratio and possible side effects of such a vaccine and a preservation of parental rights to choose the course of action for their child. By making the vaccine mandatory, we are assuming that a voluntary program, based on an informed and sensitive health education campaign, would not be effective. It is my contention that **we remove said vaccine from the mandatory list or provide a parent friendly waiver of compulsory vaccination** in addition to the medical and religious exemptions already provided for in the proposed bill.

I present this information as a member of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association and am in compliance with the American Chiropractic Association's and the International Chiropractic Association's policy statement on vaccinations:

"VACCINATION

Resolved, that the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) recognize and advise the public that: Since the scientific community acknowledges that the use of vaccines is not without risk, the American Chiropractic Association supports each individual's right to freedom of choice in his/her own health care based on an informed awareness of the benefits and possible adverse effects of vaccination. The ACA is supportive of a conscience clause or waiver in compulsory vaccination laws thereby maintaining an individual's right to freedom of choice in health care matters and providing an alternative elective course of action regarding vaccination. (Ratified by the House of Delegates, July 1993, Revised and Ratified June 1998)".

"... the use of vaccines is not without risk. The International Chiropractic Association (ICA) supports each individual's right to select his or her own health care and to be made aware of the possible adverse effects of vaccines upon a human body. In accordance with such principles and based upon the individual's right to freedom of choice, the ICA is opposed to compulsory programs which infringe upon such rights."

Upon review of published literature, there remain enough questions to warrant further investigation of this proposed mandated vaccine:

1. Prescribing information for GARDASIL. Whitehouse Station (NJ): Merck & Co., Inc.; 2006.
2. Management of abnormal cervical cytology and histology. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 66. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist. Obstet Gynecol 2005; 106: 645-64.
3. Ibid.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Genital HPV Infection Facts Sheet. Available at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/HPV/STDFact-HPV.htm>. Retrieved September 16, 2006.
5. Management of abnormal cervical cytology and histology. ACOG Practice Bulletin No. 66. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist. Obstet Gynecol 2005; 106: 645-64.
6. Prescribing information for GARDASIL. Whitehouse Station (NJ): Merck & Co., Inc.; 2006.
7. Ibid.
8. National Vaccine Information Center. VAERS reports related to HPV4 vaccine
<http://www.medalerts.org/vaersdb/findfield.php?PAGENO=2&PERPAGE=10&VAX=HPV4>
(Accessed January 10, 2007).
9. Cave, S. What Your Doctor May Not Tell You About Children's Vaccinations. Warner Books, 2001. p.xviii.
10. Prescribing information for GARDASIL. Whitehouse Station (NJ): Merck & Co., Inc.; 2006.
11. [4] American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts and Figures 2005. Atlanta: American Cancer Society; 2005. Pages 27- 29.
<http://www.cancer.org/downloads/STT/CAFF2005f4PWSecured.pdf>